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VIA FACSIMILE - 42 PAGES (Including This Cover)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attention: Examiner R. Abelson, Group AU 2666
Transmitted to TC2800 **BEFORE FINAL** Fax No. 703-872-9314

Re: T. MULLER *et al.*, Serial No. 09/404,654
Attorney Docket No. 1156.41270X00

SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT AND Information Disclosure Statement

Sir:

Applicant hereby transmits the attached "AMENDMENT AND Information
Disclosure Statement (40 Pages) and Postcard Receipt in connection with the above-
identified application.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that the attached "AMENDMENT AND Information Disclosure
Statement (40 Pages).


Joel Glyne

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The documents accompanying this facsimile transmission contain confidential information belonging to the sender which is legally privileged. This information is intended only for the use of the individual(s) or entity(ies) named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this facsimile information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please immediately notify us by telephone to arrange for return of the original document to us.

On information and belief, I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Each of the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 is in the English language.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (1156.41270X00) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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by the Examiner still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of the claims as being unpatentable over Saka and Blanchette is respectfully requested.

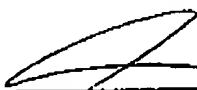
The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 13, 22, 67, 71, 75-77, 80-84, 86-92, 94, 95, 97-103, 105-114, 116, 117 and 119.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 13, 17, 22, 39, 60, 67, 68 and 71-119 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 13, 17, 22, 39, 60, 67, 68 and 71-119 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (1156.41270X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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Patent Dkt. No. 1156.41270X00 Attorney Initials (CIB)
Application No. 09/404,654 Filing Date September 24, 1999
Applicant(s) T. MULLER, et al
Papers Filed Herewith on January 28, 2004

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of the papers filed as indicated by the checked items in connection with the above-identified application:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> New Application Transmittal Form | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit Card Payment Form |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pages of Specification (<u> </u> claims) | Fees \$ <u>180.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sheets of Drawings | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration (<u> </u> pages) | <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Office Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of Time (<u> </u> mos.) |
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(ESP due date 4/28/2004)

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